Executive Summary

This 2006 Annual Report to Congress on the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) provides information on PCSRF accomplishments from FY 2000 through FY 2005. Additionally, it describes development of a Performance Reporting Framework and progress in meeting the salmon and steelhead restoration and conservation goals outlined in the Framework. This Report provides a summary of projects based on the efforts of states and tribes in salmon restoration and conservation using the PCSRF funds. This Report also provides an update on the status of Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed salmon and steelhead and the development of recovery plans.

The PCSRF was established by Congress in fiscal year 2000 to contribute to the restoration and conservation of Pacific salmon populations and their habitat. The Administration continues to support the PCSRF program. From 2000 to 2005 the President has requested $570M for the PCSRF program and Congress has appropriated $525M. Congressional appropriations for the PCSRF are provided to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for allocation to the states of Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, and Alaska, and the Pacific Coast and Columbia River tribes. The states and tribal commissions distribute their funds in accordance with memoranda of understanding with NMFS for salmon recovery and conservation projects to local governments, individual tribes, public partnerships, watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and other organizations and entities. The PCSRF has played an important role in leveraging additional funding and in-kind contributions (e.g., volunteer participation in salmon recovery from local and private sources), with most states providing significant amounts of matching funds.

The states and tribes are investing in priority activities to address conservation needs and identified factors limiting salmon recovery. They have used PCSRF funding to protect and restore salmon habitat; conduct watershed

assessments to determine factors limiting salmon productivity; develop plans to address limiting factors; develop resource management plans; conduct salmon enhancement and supplementation activities; monitor and evaluate recovery actions and outcomes; and conduct research and monitoring on salmon populations. Over 5,700 PCSRF projects have been funded to date, with habitat restoration projects (over 3,000) accounting for the largest number, followed by over 1,300 watershed/species assessments and subbasin planning projects.

States and tribes working with NMFS recently developed a Performance Reporting Framework to report progress on six major goals. Three of these goals are achievable in the short-term (< 5 years), including: enhanced availability and quality of habitat, improved management practices, and major habitat limiting factors addressed for ESA-listed salmon. Two of the goals are mid-term (5-15 years) and include improved status of ESA-listed salmon (e.g., naturally spawning populations increased) and maintained healthy salmon populations. The goal

that will be addressed in the longer term (>15 years) is the overall sustainability of Pacific salmon. For each of these goals, performance indicators have been identified and are described and quantified within this Report. For example, toward the goal of increased availability and quality of habitat, nearly 2,000 acres of wetlands have been created and more than 14,000 acres treated. Cumulatively, including riparian, estuarine, wetland, and upland efforts, nearly 290,000 acres of habitat have been treated and restored. Increases in population numbers have been shown in 16 of the Pacific salmon Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) and steelhead Distinct Population Segments (DPSs).

Pacific salmon ESUs and steelhead DPSs have been grouped into geographic recovery domains. These provide a regional approach to identify the recovery needs and implement the actions necessary for multiple ESUs in an area. The development of recovery plans varies across the region, with five draft interim regional recovery plans, one final interim plan, and two proposed ESA recovery plans currently available. Major factors limiting recovery for each ESU and DPS and activities underway to address recovery needs in the domains are described in this Report. Based on the Performance Reporting Framework, nearly 60 percent of PCSRF project activities within the recovery domains are addressing habitat limiting factors.

The PCSRF is making important contributions to systematic and cumulative efforts to improve the quality of salmon habitat, increase knowledge about salmon and steelhead life cycles and requirements, and prioritize conservation and recovery actions. While the PCSRF projects are improving the quality of salmon habitat in streams and watersheds across the region and there are signs of increased salmon abundance in some areas, continued commitment and collaboration are needed to achieve the common goal of full recovery and sustainability of Pacific salmon and steelhead populations.